

Congress has adjourned.

There is nothing doing at Washington anymore.

Four more big pieces of pie were handed out yesterday.

President Roosevelt touched the button at noon today.

About next week the land office at Tahlequah will get busy.

The Indian appropriation bill abolishes the Dawes commission July 1, 1905.

The four new judges are appointed. One of the four is a resident of Indian Territory.

The present congress adjourns earlier than any congress for forty years and more.

The chances are that the next time the Indian Territory wants a batch of judges she will elect them.

Governor Dockery has declared today (April 30) a holiday, on account of the opening of the World's Fair.

The Central district has about all it could desire, evidently; two judges on its federal bench and both from Arkansas.

The Indian Territory still leads the country in the number of National banks organized, a sign of unmistakable prosperity.

W. R. Lawrence, the new judge for the Northern district, is an Illinois man, and not from Indiana, as stated in the dispatches.

About the meanest things the republicans have found to say about Bourke Cochran is that he refused to support Bryan in 1896.

The wife of Governor Bob Taylor has obtained a divorce from her distinguished husband, who was thrice governor of Tennessee.

If a man steals millions he is a captain of industry; if he steals a few dollars he is a common thief, and likely to be sent to the penitentiary.

If the Commercial Club decides to print a booklet booming Vinita, or, rather, setting forth its resources and advantages, it need not go out of town for the work.

Judge Humphrey is not only from Arkansas, but used to be a democrat. He is not only from a great state but was at least politically right once in his life. Men have been known to recover from even worse afflictions than republicanism.

Next Monday the Cherokee land office will again be opened for the filing of allotment claims. The prospect is that there will be a rush, as the people are tired of waiting and are anxious to get their land set apart to them without delay.

Those who continually cite Rhode Island and Delaware as examples of small states with equal representation in the United States Senate with the larger ones should not ask the government to again beguile of such folly by making yet more small states.

A report comes from Washington to the effect that J. G. Slonecker, of Topeka, was tendered the appointment to a judgeship in the Indian Territory and declined, and that another Kansan named J. T. Dickson, a brother-in-law of E. W. Hoch, has been offered the place.

Congress showed commendable intelligence in turning down the bill providing for more places of holding court in this territory. Of course, courts are established for the convenience of the people served, but there are enough places for holding court in this country now.

While matters relating to the final settlement of all Indian matters in this territory are exceedingly slow of development, there is nothing to indicate a standstill. Each year witnesses progress in the direction of the final abolishment of tribal government and of complete land titles.

The eager, inordinate desire to get hold of land in this country is going to be the means of getting many into trouble. Both those who own the land and those who wish to purchase are too anxious to get action. The time will speedily come when legitimate sales can be made, and for such time all should be willing to wait.

A feature of the outdoor display of the Forestry, Fish and Game department at the World's Fair is the Missouri hunting lodge, where the wild game and fish of that state are exhibited. A 200-foot pool occupies the center of the space on which angling contests open to the public are held. Surrounding the pool are cages containing every specie of wild animal known in Missouri.

There is a decided lull in the rush to buy land from Creek freedmen at Muskogee. The question of whether the Creek freedman is of Indian blood is now the problem. Nine-tenths of the negroes holding rights in the

Creek nation are mixed with Indian blood. The question as to whether the presence of Indian blood in the veins of a Creek freedman would invalidate a land deed made under the provisions of the Indian appropriation bill granting the right to alienate is now up for settlement, and will go to the courts.

Every year there are thousands of trees planted, both fruit and ornamental, that never again put forth bud or blossom. Men show less intelligence in the growing of trees than in almost any other line of common, every day enterprise. There is a right way and a wrong way of doing things, and this principle may be applied to the planting of trees as elsewhere. If trees were carefully selected and dug, and planted at the proper season, there would be few losses from failure to grow. Look around town and you will see the hundreds of lifeless trees recently set. Trace up the cause and do better next year.

The passage of the bill providing for four additional judges in the Indian Territory is another intelligent item of legislation. It will relieve the situation with reference to the administration of law in this country, and make it wholly unnecessary for Judge Raymond or any other court to try a great murder case in a single day. Indeed, such haste has not been necessary at any time. An additional judge will now be appointed for each of the four districts, and the courts should then be able to give a speedy hearing to all litigants. The criminal business could then be handled with decency and expedition. It is hoped, however, that this country will be blessed with state government long before the four years' term of these judges expires.

Scissored and Otherwise

An Interesting Petition.

As a combination of literature and legal lore the following Missouri divorce petition is hard to beat:

"Now on this day comes the plaintiff in the above entitled cause, a humble descendant of Ham, to the altar of Justice, weighed down almost to mother earth by the sorrows and woes heaped upon her since the minister of the gospel performed a ceremony which legally united this plaintiff and defendant into one, at the matrimonial altar, in Jefferson City, Cole county, Missouri, on the fourteenth day of June, A. D., in the year of our Lord, 1897, and begs to inform this ancient and honorable court, that, at all times in the beginning and since said connubial rites, and up to about June, 1899, the plaintiff fully persuaded from much experience that she knew a good thing when she seen it, loved and honored the defendant, and cooked and washed and sewed for him, and obeyed him in all things, and at all times treated him with kindness and affection, and, like all good and true wives, divided her apples with the defendant only; but, alas! this plaintiff discovered that she had been 'hugging the delusive phantom of hope' instead of a loving coon as sweet as the honey dew, and worthy to be the plaintiff's lord and master, for the defendant, unmindful of his marital duties, and solemn vow to forsake all others and cleave to the plaintiff only, violated that biblical command, 'Thou shalt not covet anything that is thy neighbor's,' and was caught, and after due process of law, in June, 1899, he filled a felon's cell in the Missouri penitentiary under a sentence of five years, to the great humiliation and inconvenience of the plaintiff, and, after having fully paid the penalty under the three fourths law, instead of returning to his faithful Dulcinea, this plaintiff, who had suffered great distress of mind, anguish of soul, and the deprivation of all affinity, during his incarceration, the defendant, without anger between or excuse, abandoned this plaintiff, and betook himself to the sunny south, where the cotton and boll weevil flourish, and where the croaking bullfrogs, the small coons and the large alligators grow, and ever since until this day is a nonresident of this great World's Fair state 'Imperial Missouri,' of the Louisiana purchase of the long ago, the state of the plaintiff's nativity and where she has resided more than one whole year next prior to the filing of this petition, and that.

"Plaintiff further states that her maiden name was Loubirta B. Wilkins, and that by reason of defendant's conduct specifically enumerated above, their matrimonial venture proved a failure, her home broken up, and she left in her declining years all alone with no sympathetic soul to pour out upon her its soothing balm, and no heart to beat in unison with her fond heart, and no companionship to cheer and escort her to the World's Great Fair; therefore the plaintiff humbly prays judgment that the bonds of matrimony contracted with the aforesaid defendant be dissolved, set aside and not held, and that she be divorced from the defendant forever and that she be restored to single blessedness, and to her maiden name, Loubirta B. Wilkins, and that this court make such other further and different orders and judgments, from time to time touching the premises, as to him may seem meet and proper, and as justice may require."

A Race Against Time.

Congress has fixed the date of the expiration of the Dawes commission, and Chairman Bixby has commenced the race against time. He realizes the enormity of the work in hand and is training his sails accordingly. On Wednesday morning last he called before him the heads of all the departments and told them the situation. They were instructed as to what was expected of them, and the fact that there is a time limit was especially impressed upon their minds. There has been a large increase in the working force of the commission, and a number of stenographers and draughtsmen are being taken on, persons who are capable of turning out technical work rapidly being desired. The force for the land office at Tahlequah has been increased until there are nearly as many men working there as in both the other land offices combined, and the force at the commission office, proper, has been increased.

In the Cherokee Nation there is more allotment work to do than elsewhere. The land office was opened at the same time but has been closed eight months since first

opened and only a third of the allotment work has been completed. But Mr. Bixby figures that the increased force will soon bring the work up to the other offices. Every man who can find room will be given a place in this office.

Though the commission will expire July 1, 1905, there will be a lot of odds and ends of the work that will not be completed because the law will not permit. It will take a force of about twenty men to take care of and complete this work. Mr. Bixby is of the opinion that the Secretary of the Interior will place one man, probably one of the commissioners, in charge of the work and give him a small force of men to wind up the affairs of the vast Indian estate.—Phoenix.

When Adjourned.

The date when other sessions of congress have adjourned is not without interest and the following from the Washington Post furnishes this information:

Thirty-seventh—Republican: Grow, Speaker; July 17, 1892.
Thirty-eighth—Republican: Cofax, Speaker; July 4, 1894.
Thirty-ninth—Republican: Cofax, Speaker; July 28, 1896.
Fortieth—Republican: Cofax, Speaker; July 27, 1898.
Forty-first—Republican: Blaine, Speaker; July 15, 1870.
Forty-second—Republican: Blaine, Speaker; June 10, 1872.
Forty-third—Republican: Blaine, Speaker; June 23, 1874.
Forty-fourth—Democratic: Randall, Speaker; August 15, 1876.
Forty-fifth—Democratic: Randall, Speaker; June 20, 1878.
Forty-sixth—Democratic: Randall, Speaker; June 16, 1880.
Forty-seventh—Republican: Keifer, Speaker; August 8, 1882.
Forty-eighth—Democratic: Carlisle, Speaker; July 7, 1884.
Forty-ninth—Democratic: Carlisle, Speaker; August 5, 1886.
Fiftieth—Democratic: Carlisle, Speaker; October 20, 1888.
Fifty-first—Republican: Reed, Speaker; October 1, 1890.
Fifty-second—Democratic: Crisp, Speaker; August 5, 1892.
Fifty-third—Democratic: Crisp, Speaker; August 28, 1894.
Fifty-fourth—Republican: Reed, Speaker; June 11, 1896.
Fifty-fifth—Republican: Reed, Speaker; July 8, 1898.
Fifty-sixth—Republican: Henderson, Speaker; June 7, 1900.
Fifty-seventh—Republican: Henderson, Speaker; July 1, 1902.
Fifty-eighth—Republican: Cannon, Speaker; April 28, 1904.

The single staters would do well to remember, while dreaming of the grand, powerful state that the two territories will make, that Woodward county, Oklahoma, is three times as big as Rhode Island, and nearly twice as big as Delaware. Rhode Island has 1,053 square miles, Delaware 1,900, while Woodward county has 3,480. The great, big state can get just as big as Rhode Island, and no bigger, for legislative purposes. They will one day feel badly for having worked so hard to get two senators instead of four.—South McAlester Capital.

Secretary Shaw On The Sunday School.

Closing a week's jubilee at the Foundry Methodist Church, Washington, Secretary of the Treasury Shaw praised the Sunday school as the preserver of Bible study among the people. The Bible is not taught in the public schools, he said. In our busy life it is not taught in our homes. The head of the family ought to be a priest, but the Bible is seldom read, and less frequently taught. It is seldom taught in the pulpit. You will learn much about the plan of salvation if you listen to sermons, but you will not know much about the Bible. "The only place on this earth where the Bible is taught is in the Sunday school." "You will find much good Christianity lying around unheeded," said Secretary Shaw. "Most of these men learned it in the Sunday school." He urged that the Sunday school be made, not an adjunct of the church but a part of the church. If he had his way the expenses of the Sunday school would come out of the general church fund. Further, make it a place for men. Get men to teach the boys, real men, business men and members of congress. He had known many a boy who got sick because he wanted to be a like man. Boys like to do what men do. Secretary Shaw's final exhortation was: "Get into the Sunday school. There you will begin a line of study that develops your life."

Our New Judge.

Thomas Humphrey, appointed by the president yesterday to fill one of the newly created judgeships in the Indian Territory, is one of the best known residents of South McAlester. He came from Arkansas in 1900, in which state he lived all his life. His coming experience as a judge will not be the first, he having been thrice on the bench in Arkansas. In the 80's he served as county judge of Logan county and afterwards of Scott county in that state; and afterwards he was appointed judge of the twelfth judicial circuit, to fill out the unexpired term of John S. Little. Subsequently he was sent to the legislature from Sebastian county, and was chosen speaker of the house.

Judge Humphrey is a man whose force of character has carried him to prominence in every environment, and his long experience on the bench in the past, together with his intimate acquaintance, through actual practice with the intricate mazes of Territory law, should render him a particularly suitable man for the place.

The judge was endorsed for the place by the Central District Republican Executive Committee, and his appointment is an unequivocal recognition of the organization. He is a South McAlester man, every dollar of his property being located here. "Where the treasure is there will the heart be also." Greeting to the new Judge!—So, McAlester News.

A Preacher for His Circus.

Mr. Aailey, principal owner of the Barnum-Bailey show, has appointed a circus chaplain. He has probably discovered that circus employes find no time to attend church, and knowing the beneficial effects of religious instruction he has decided to bring the preacher to them. Besides being a worthy move, there can be no doubt that this will be a paying investment from a financial standpoint. In a circus, as everywhere, the best employe is the one who is both moral and of a religious nature. There has been a great change in the morals of circus since the days when first they began to travel in railroad trains, and the managers, many of whom are Christian men themselves, have found that morality and decency pay best.—Wichita Eagle.

ALFRED ORENDORFF, President.

C. A. DAVIDSON, Sec'y and Treas.

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